WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for illustrating assigned relationships between graphic objects, said method comprising:

 displaying first and second graphic objects, said first graphic object having an assigned relationship with said second graphic object; and

 displaying a graphic directional indicator between said first and second graphic objects in response to a user input requesting said assigned relationship between said first and second graphic objects be shown.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said graphic directional indicator includes an arrow.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said graphic directional indicator includes an arrow of a particular color to indicate a type of relationship assigned between said first and second graphic object.

4. The method of claim 1 said displaying of said graphic directional indicator includes displaying said graphic directional indicator to point from said first graphic object to said second graphic object to indicate that said assigned relationship is from said first graphic object to said second graphic object.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 displaying a third graphic object, said third graphic object having a second assigned relationship with said second graphic object; and

 displaying a second graphic directional indicator between said second and third graphic objects in response to a user input requesting said second assigned relationship between said second and third graphic objects be shown.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said displaying of said second graphic

2 directional indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional indicator to

3 point from said second graphic object to said third graphic object to indicate that said

4 assigned relationship is from said second graphic object to said third graphic object.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said displaying of said second graphic

2 directional indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional indicator to

3 point from said third graphic object to said second graphic object to indicate that said

4 assigned relationship is from said third graphic object to said second graphic object.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein said displaying of said first graphic directional

2 indicator includes displaying said first graphic directional indicator to point from said

3 first graphic object to said second graphic object in response to a user command for

4 said second object, and wherein said displaying of said second graphic directional

5 indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional indicator to point from

6 said second graphic object to said third graphic object in response to said user

7 command for said second object.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying of said first graphic directional

2 indicator includes displaying said first graphic directional indicator between said first

3 and second graphic objects in response to a user command for one of said first and

4 second graphic objects.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said assigned relationship between said first

2 and second objects is a functional relationship between said first and second graphic

3 objects.

1   11.   A storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of
2   instructions executable by said computer to perform method steps for illustrating
3   assigned relationships between graphic objects, said method steps comprising:
4   displaying first and second graphic objects, said first graphic object
5   having an assigned relationship with said second graphic object; and
6   displaying a graphic directional indicator between said first and second
7   graphic objects in response to a user input requesting said assigned relationship
8   between said first and second graphic objects be shown.

1   12.   The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said graphic directional indicator
2   includes an arrow.

1   13.   The storage medium of claim 12 wherein said graphic directional indicator
2   includes an arrow of a particular color to indicate a type of relationship assigned
3   between said first and second graphic object.

1   14.   The storage medium of claim 11 said displaying of said graphic directional
2   indicator includes displaying said graphic directional indicator to point from said first
3   graphic object to said second graphic object to indicate that said assigned relationship
4   is from said first graphic object to said second graphic object.

1   15.   The storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:
2   displaying a third graphic object, said third graphic object having a
3   second assigned relationship with said second graphic object; and
4   displaying a second graphic directional indicator between said second
5   and third graphic objects in response to a user input requesting said second assigned
6   relationship between said second and third graphic objects be shown.

1   16.   The storage medium of claim 15 wherein said displaying of said second
2   graphic directional indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional
3   indicator to point from said second graphic object to said third graphic object to
4   indicate that said assigned relationship is from said second graphic object to said third
5   graphic object.

1   17.   The storage medium of claim 15 wherein said displaying of said second
2   graphic directional indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional
3   indicator to point from said third graphic object to said second graphic object to
4   indicate that said assigned relationship is from said third graphic object to said second
5   graphic object.

1   18.   The storage medium of claim 15 wherein said displaying of said first graphic
2   directional indicator includes displaying said first graphic directional indicator to
3   point from said first graphic object to said second graphic object in response to a user
4   command for said second object, and wherein said displaying of said second graphic
5   directional indicator includes displaying said second graphic directional indicator to
6   point from said second graphic object to said third graphic object in response to said
7   user command for said second object.

1   19.   The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said displaying of said first graphic
2   directional indicator includes displaying said first graphic directional indicator
3   between said first and second graphic objects in response to a user command for one
4   of said first and second graphic objects.

1   20.   The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said assigned relationship between
2   said first and second objects is a functional relationship between said first and second
3   graphic objects.